

Message Text

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FOR US DEL LOS

FOL RPT PARIS 12534 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO STOCKHOLM DTD 17 APR 8

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 12534

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: FR SENV OVIP TOCY
SUBJ: VISIT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY MINK

REF: 77 PARIS 29195

1. SUMMARY: OES ASSISTANT SECRETARY MINK CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH CENTRE NATIONAL POUR L'EXPLOITATION DES OCEANS (CNEXO) AND SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT. SUBJECTS OF MOST INTEREST TO THESE OFFICIALS WERE POSSIBLE US LEGISLATION ON DEEP SEA BED MINING AND US CHEMICAL LAWS, ESPECIALLY TSCA. CNEXO PRESIDENT PIKETTY WILL VISIT THE US IN LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE.
END SUMMARY.

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2. ON MORNING APRIL 14 MRS. PATSY MINK, OES ASSISTANT SECRETARY, ACCOMPANIED BY DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY OFFICERS, CALLED ON GERARD PIKETTY, PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE CENTRE NATIONAL POUR L'EXPLOITATION DES OCEANS (CNEXO) WHO WAS ACCCOMPANIED

BY ROBERT LEANDRI, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.
PIKETTY EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD STARTED IN HIS PRESENT
JOB ONLY IN JANUARY. HE LOOKED FORWARD TO A VISIT TN
THE US LATE IN MAY OR EARLY IN JUNE, AT WHICH TIME HE
HOPES TO MEET HIS COUNTERPARTS IN NOAA AND ELSEWHERE IN
THE USG.

3. LEANDRI REVIEWED THE PROGRAM OF COOPERATION BETWEEN
CNEXO AND NOAA, DESCRIBED IN DETAIL IN REFTEL. IT WAS
NOTED THAT IT NOW INCLUDED ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES. IN
ANSWER TO MINK'S QUESTION, PIKETTY STATED THAT CNEXO
WAS IN TOUCH WITH THE EPA, THROUGH NOAA. LEANDRI
NOTED THAT THERE ARE DATA EXCHANGES IN MARINE CHEMISTRY,
OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTRUMENTATION, BUOY TECHNOLOGIES AND
DECOMPRESSION DIVING.

4. IN ANSWER TO MINK'S QUESTION ABOUT GOVERNMENT-
INDUSTRY COOPERATION IN DEEP SEA BED MINING, PIKETTY
STATED THAT GOF SUPPORTS FRENCH INDUSTRY, WHICH WOULD BE
UNABLE TO CARRY OUT THIS RESEARCH UNAIDED. CNEXO
RESEARCH IN THIS FIELD IS ALONG TWO PRINCIPAL AXES:
EXPLORATION TO IDENTIFY LIKELY NODULE SITES; AND
RESEARCH ON TECHNIQUES FOR LIFTING NODULES AND ORES
FROM THE BOTTOM AT GREAT DEPTHS. PIKETTY THOUGHT THERE
SHOULD BE SOME WAY OF POOLING EFFORTS IN DEVELOPING
MINING TECHNIQUES, BUT ADMITTED COMMERCIAL INTERESTS
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WOULD PROBABLY MAKE SUCH COOPERATION UNLIKELY.

5. CONVERSATION THEN TURNED TO LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE.
PIKETTY SAID HE DID NOT THINK IT WAS A GOOD THING FOR
THE US TO BE PUSHING UNILATERAL ACTION ON SEA BED
MINING IN EVENT GENEVA CONFERENCE SHOULD FAIL. MINK
REPLIED THAT US INDUSTRY FEELS NEED OF SOME PROTECTION
OR INSURANCE IF IT IS TO CONTINUE EXPLORATION, IN VIEW
OF THE TREMENDOUS INVESTMENT INVOLVED.

6. TURNING NEXT TO ECOLOGICAL STUDY OF EFFECTS OF AMOCO
CADIZ OIL SPILL WHICH CNEXO IS DIRECTING, PIKETTY
EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ALL USG PARTICIPATION. HE
ADDED THAT AMOCO HAD OFFERED TO FUND PART OF THE STUDY,
BUT THAT FIRM'S OFFER, IN ITS PRESENT FORM, WAS NOT
ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOF. THE PROBLEM OF THE MONEY IS
SECONDARY. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THE ORGANIZATION SET
UP TO DETERMINE PRIORITIES FOR SPENDING IT. (ANOTHER
MEETING THAT DAY ON THE AMOCO OFFER REPORTED SEPTEL.)

7. CONCERNING OTHER COUNTRIES ACTIVE IN THIS
ENTERPRISE, PIKETTY AND LEANDRI TOLD GROUP THAT HE WAS

IN TOUCH WITH UK SCIENTISTS AND THAT BEDFORD INSTITUTE OF NOVA SCOTIA HAD PEOPLE IN BREST.

8. ACCOMPANIED BY EMBOFF AND DEPTOFF, MINK MET WITH PIERRE WOLTNER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR PREVENTION OF POLLUTION AND NUISANCES AND OTHER FRENCH GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICIALS. (JEAN-FRANCOIS SAGLIO, DELEGATE FOR THE QUALITY OF LIFE, AND MR. THIERRY CHAUMELLE, DIRECTOR FOR THE PREVENTION OF POLLUTIONS AND NUISANCES, WERE SCHEDULED TO PARTICIPATE BUT WERE CALLED AWAY BY THEIR MINISTER AT THE LAST MOMENT.) IN A DISCUSSION OF THE FRENCH ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY REQUIREMENTS IT WAS BROUGHT OUT THAT THE FRENCH LAW REQUIRING THESE STUDIES WAS PASSED IN JULY 1976 AND HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEEN IN FORCE ONLY SINCE JANUARY 1978. IT WAS ALSO BROUGHT OUT THAT THIS LAW DOES NOT COVER ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE FRANCE.

9. WOLTNER, WHO HAD JUST COME FROM STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE ON TSCA, REPEATED AN OFTEN EXPRESSED FRENCH CONTENTION THAT USG REGULATES TOO READILY ON INSUFFICIENT DATA IN CHEMICALS GENERALLY AND TSCA IN PARTICULAR.
HARTMAN UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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